

have easily carried on, but she said 'no, I made that promise and I'm going to stick with that promise.'"

I was always impressed by her unwavering ideological positions, even if sometimes they were unpopular. I learned that she was driven by a clearly defined and articulated philosophy that allowed her to stand strong in the middle of a storm of criticism and persist in forcing changes for the betterment of Idaho and the Nation.

She was a strong advocate for the American people and a true believer in the balance of powers. During the Balkan crisis in the 1990s, she argued for the involvement of the legislative branch, writing, "Congress played no role in defining those political aims, which means that the American people—in whose name Congress is empowered to act—were not permitted to play any role in the decision to commit our Nation to war." She was known for quoting the Founders when giving her arguments, pulling her colleagues back to our Nation's constitutional roots if they were veering in another direction. On this same issue she quoted Alexander Hamilton writing, "It is the province and duty of the Executive to preserve to the Nation the blessings of peace. The Legislature alone can interrupt those blessings, by placing the Nation in a state of War."

Helen Chenoweth was a champion for property rights and constitutional government. She fought hard for the rights of property owners and against the heavy hand of Federal regulation and taxation that affected family farms, ranches, and businesses. In Idaho she was known as a "true environmentalist" who worked to preserve Idaho's natural beauty while also balancing the rights and needs of humans. Her passion and hard work demonstrated her belief in the inalienable rights of all citizens, and she fought to keep them protected by the U.S. Constitution.

On September 21, 2000, she was awarded the first "Friend of American Freedom Award" by the National Center For Public Policy Research and the Committee For a Constructive Tomorrow. The award honored Congressman Chenoweth's "distinguished record of defending the United States against environmental treaties, United Nations programs and other global policies that pose a threat to the Nation's sovereignty." Particular appreciation was given for her work on the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act, which would require the executive branch to seek Congressional approval before designating any U.S. landmark as a world heritage site. The director of the National Center's Environmental Policy Task Force said of Helen, "Congressman Chenoweth-Hage has been one of the leading champions of U.S. sovereignty and the U.S. Constitution during her 6-year tenure in Congress. The 'Friend of American Freedom Award' represents our profound thanks to the Congressman for her valiant

work defending constitutional liberties."

While I served as chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, she served as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health. I enjoyed this opportunity to work together on land management issues such as the Roadless Initiative. We shared a passion to protect our great western lands. Much of her work survives in the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

Helen was a strong advocate for women and families. She supported funding for women's health and also for family health care. Many women looked up to her as a woman politician who earned every bit of respect she received and held her ground in an environment predominately of men. She was known as a true feminist who never asked for special treatment because of her gender.

Even after her retirement from Congress she worked tirelessly with her husband, Nevada rancher Wayne Hage, in the lawsuit Hage vs. U.S. Wayne had purchased his ranch in 1978 and testified that over the years Federal agency interference made it nearly impossible to run a livestock operation and ultimately resulted in the taking of his ranch. Wayne and Helen's court victory was a triumph for all private property owners.

Helen Chenoweth-Hage was not only a great politician; she was also a loving wife and mother and a loyal friend. Her strong Christian faith inspired many, guided her throughout her life, and served as a base on which she built her philosophy. Among her many endearing qualities were her unfailing graciousness, charm, and her warm smile. She will be sorely missed, not only by her children and other family members, but by legions of friends, colleagues, and admirers.

Let me end by quoting her daughter Meg Keenan, who spoke for many of us when she said: "Helen was the most amazing, gracious person I ever had the privilege to know. She was fearless in life, and I know she welcomes the opportunity to be in the presence of God the Father."

#### 2005 COUNTRY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep distress about the human rights violations reportedly committed in the Philippines. The U.S. Department of State's 2005 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in the Philippines, released in March 2006, is a very troubling account and, at times, a cynical report on the current state of Philippine human rights problems. The Report cites the Philippine National Police as the worst abuser of human rights in the country, and it describes numerous violations, including extrajudicial

killings, disappearances, and physical abuse of suspects and detainees. It cites instances of torture, arbitrary arrests, trafficking of persons, and harassment of human rights personnel and political activists.

In light of the report's troubling findings, I respectfully urge my colleagues to review this document and recognize the significance of these extremely serious transgressions.

#### AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to discuss today the gross misconduct of the Australian Wheat Board in its dealings with Saddam Hussein under the U.N. Oil for Food Program and to introduce legislation regarding the potential impact AWB's actions may have had U.S. farmers.

Last week, a commission in Australia led by former Supreme Court Justice Terence Cole released a detailed report documenting extensive corruption, fraud, and deceit on the part of the Australian Wheat Board, commonly called AWB. The report showed that AWB paid more than \$221 million in under-the-table kickbacks to the Hussein regime to secure exclusive, illegal access to the Iraqi wheat market. I applaud Sir Terence Cole and his commission for the thorough and comprehensive manner in which they have dealt with this issue.

As chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I conducted an investigation for almost 3 years into abuses of the U.N. Oil-for-Food Program. During my investigation, I held numerous hearings and issued several detailed reports that exposed significant graft associated with the program.

In particular, my subcommittee exposed corruption involving public officials from the United Kingdom, Russia, France and the United Nations, along with corrupt transactions by companies in the United States, United Kingdom, and elsewhere around the world.

However, when my subcommittee considered investigating the AWB, we faced insurmountable legal challenges that prevented us from initiating the kind of exhaustive review that this case required. Unlike other foreign entities that voluntarily cooperated with the subcommittee's efforts, AWB declined to cooperate with the subcommittee by providing documents or witnesses. Given that AWB is a foreign entity, the subcommittee could not compel its cooperation through subpoenas.

Moreover, the U.N.'s investigators at the Independent Inquiry Committee issued a report in October 2004, which suggested that it would examine AWB's transactions along with the other deals executed under the program. Unlike the subcommittee's efforts, that inquiry would have complete access to U.N. files and unfettered access to documents from relevant Iraqi ministries and would likely have access to the files and banking records of AWB.